

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 639

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to recognize Judge Kindall Lawson on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Kindall Lawson, District 3 Circuit Court Judge, is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for thirty-seven years on the bench; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lawson will be taking a much deserved retirement in June of this year; and

WHEREAS, a native of Hawkins County, Kindall Lawson graduated from Surgoinsville High School before attending East Tennessee State University, from which he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial technology in 1964; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from college, Judge Lawson accepted a position at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida, and after attending night school at the Florida Institute of Technology, he joined the Kennedy Center as a Senior Aerospace Engineer; and

WHEREAS, at the Kennedy Center, Judge Lawson worked on a number of groundbreaking projects, including working on tracking equipment for the missile test range, the miniaturization of electronics for spacecraft, and the lunar excursion module, among several others; and

WHEREAS, after returning to Surgoinsville, Judge Lawson rendered sterling service as an independent contractor until 1974, when he ran for and was elected serve as a General Sessions Judge; and

WHEREAS, though he had no previous experience in the arena of law, Judge Kindall Lawson brought to the position the same dedication to excellence that he brought to his previous roles. He trained for his new career by attending conferences at the University of Tennessee and through the state judicial conference and relied heavily on his common sense; and

WHEREAS, while serving as General Sessions Judge, Judge Lawson earned his pilot's license, which he used to commute by plane to Nashville, where he earned a law degree from the Nashville School of Law, graduating fourth in his class in 1988; and

WHEREAS, after stepping down from the General Sessions bench, he joined with Heiskell Winstead, and together they founded the Lawson-Winstead law firm; and

WHEREAS, after three years of working in private law, he was appointed to serve as the District 3 Circuit Court Judge by Governor Sundquist in 1996, a position he has held without opposition ever since; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lawson, affectionately known to many as "The Singing Judge," exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, he is the loving husband of Brenda, his high school sweetheart, and the doting father of their son, Christopher; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Judge Lawson has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Judge Kindall Lawson our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.